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The Royal Palace was begun by Jacob van Kampen in 1648 as a town hall, and completed in 1655 at a cost of 8,000,000 florins, being presented by the city to King Louis Bonaparte as a residence in 1808. Its length is 264 feet, and the height of the tower (which contains a chime of bells) 187 feet. It rests, like all of Amsterdam's buildings, on an artificial foundation of piles, no less than 13,659 being used for the purpose.

Printed in England.

CTPA 2.9